

State Youth Council Members

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The Trane Co.

Mark Johnston
Larimer County Workforce Center

Leslie D. Watkins
LD Watkins Construction

Maureen Wirth
Colorado Department of Education

Michael Wales
Colorado Division of Youth Corrections

Scott Yoshimura
Collbran Youth Corps

Many thanks to the Great Divide Lodge at Breckenridge for hosting
this year's Think Big Youth Forum.



Sponsored by:

State Youth Council Colorado Workforce Development Council
Governor's Summer Job Hunt Department of Local Affairs
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Agenda

TUESDAY MAY 9TH

7:30AM-8:30AM	REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST	
8:30AM-9:35AM	OPENING SESSION	SPRUCE ROOM
	Welcome: Think BIG Committee	
	Opening Remarks: Booker Graves, Director – Colorado Office of Workforce Development	
	Promising Practice Award: Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps (Larimer County Workforce Center)	
TRAIL 1 9:55AM-10:45AM		
	School-Based Options for Youth	Bighorn Room
	YouthMarketing	Denver Room
	Common Measures	Lark Room
TRAIL 2 11:00AM-11:50AM		
	Dropout Recovery for Older Youth	Bristlecone Room
	Colorado's Rural Youth at Work	Bighorn Room
	My Son/Daughter Needs Something To Do This Summer!	Denver Room
	Child Labor Laws	Centennial Room
	WIA Eligibility	Lark Room
LUNCH 12:00PM-12:55PM		SPRUCE ROOM
	Energy Initiatives & Tourism in Western Colorado: Aron Diaz, Executive Director – Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado	
	Youth in Job Corps: Ashley Vurciaga	
	Promising Practice Award: Fire Careers Training Program (Southwest Conservation Corps & The Training Advantage)	
TRAIL 3 1:10PM-2:00PM		
	School-Based Options for Youth	Bighorn Room
	Learn & Earn A Trade	Bristlecone Room
	Labor Market Information	Centennial Room
	YouthMarketing	Denver Room
	Restructuring for Change	Lark Room
BREAK 2:10PM-2:40PM		SPRUCE ROOM
	Promising Practice Awards: E-Mentoring (Collbran Job Corps)	
	The ROAD (Tri-County Workforce Center/Jefferson County Center for Mental Health)	
TRAIL 4 2:55PM-3:45PM		
	Dropout Recovery for Older Youth	Bristlecone Room
	Child Labor Laws	Centennial Room
	Governor's Summer Job Hunt 101	Denver Room
	Case Management for WIA	Bighorn Room
	The Mystery of Resource Mapping	Lark Room

SYC Promising Practices 2006

A goal of the Colorado State Youth Council (SYC) is to identify and support existing strategies, practices, and projects that demonstrate measurable success, and to augment and replicate successful practices throughout Colorado.

This year, local communities were invited to submit local promising workforce practices that effectively address the needs of youth who are transitioning to adulthood. Submissions were scored against the "Youth Guideposts for Success." These Guideposts involve: school preparation, youth development and leadership, career preparation, connecting activities, and family involvement.

The State Youth Council would like to thank all of the applicants for participating. There are many truly impressive programs and practices taking place across the State, and we encourage workforce regions and their partners to participate when the SYC does this again next year!

Five of the submitted promising practices were chosen by the SYC to be recognized at the 2006 Think Big Forum. These five practices will receive \$1000 each to improve or expand promising practice activities.

The State Youth Council would like to recognize the following promising practice awardees and applicants. Please visit with these youth service partners over the next two days to learn more about the great things taking place for youth in Colorado!

2006 Awardees

- Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps - Larimer County Workforce Center
- Gee Whiz Health Camp - Employment Services of Weld County
- The ROAD - Tri County Workforce Center/Jefferson County Center for Mental Health
- Fire Careers Training Program - Southwest Conservation Corps & The Training Advantage
- E-Mentoring - Collbran Job Corps

Special Thanks To The Following Applicants For Their Efforts

- Multidisciplinary Youth Assessment Team - Employment Services of Weld County
- T.I.G.H.T Youth Corps - Employment Services of Weld County
- Youth Employment Academy - City and County of Denver, Division of Workforce Development
- High Risk Teen Program - Western Region/The Training Advantage
- Technical Education Pathways Project - Red Rocks Community College/Tri County Workforce Center
- Youth Opportunities Services - Goodwill Industries of Denver
- SWAP - Pueblo School District #70
- Youth Works - Micro Business Development Corporation

PREPARING FOR TOMORROW.....TODAY!

This workshop will focus on two region's exciting occupational training programs. These creative hands-on programs are geared toward preparing youth for careers in health, technology and service oriented occupations. Learn about community collaboration and how to partner with your local community college and provide certification that will meet the common measures requirements of youth programs.

Presenters: Kelly McDougal - Arapahoe/Douglas WORKS!
Regina Urenda - Pueblo Worklink

RESTRUCTURING FOR CHANGE

Many changes are occurring that are/will impact the operation and implementation of WIA youth programs. An update on the recently submitted youth waivers to the USDOL will be presented. The new Common Measures have changed the way we must assess and serve WIA Youth. While Reauthorization has not yet occurred, its possible affects should be taken into consideration. All of these changes are forcing workforce centers to "restructure" their programs in order to be successful. Join us for a facilitated discussion on these issues and be prepared to brainstorm with your own ideas and strategies.

Facilitator: Dani Crane - Tri-County Workforce Center

SCHOOL-BASED OPTIONS FOR YOUTH

How can we partner with student organizations like DECA, FBLA, SWAP and ACE? We need to complete that connection in order to work effectively with the schools and serve those youth.

Facilitator: Sue Schierkolk - Colorado DVR Youth Programs Manager

SEEING THE FOREST THROUGH THE TREES

Sometimes we get so bogged down with performance measures that we sometimes forget the needs of the community and its youth. Let's explore what other regions are doing with at-risk kids within the confines of budget constraints. In this session, Denver and Weld Counties will present the Youth Employment Academy and the T.I.G.H.T. Youth Corps programs as examples for possible replication.

Presenters: Seth Howsden - Denver Office of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development
Ted Long - Employment Services of Weld County

SEND OUT THE SEARCH PARTY - STRATEGIES FOR RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH FOR WIA YOUTH

Join a panel of Colorado Workforce Professionals who've had success finding youth representing all the diverse groups WIA serves, including youth and out-of-school youth. Let us help you find your targeted youth!

Facilitator: Tami Agne-Moehle - Larimer County Workforce Center

WIA ELIGIBILITY

Don't get lost in the Youth woods. There's an easier way to map a path and get the documents you need for determining Youth eligibility. Many of us struggle with obtaining the required documentation needed for age, poverty status and barriers to employment. Participants will hear a variety of scenarios that have been proven successful. This session will provide ideas to streamline and improve your youth enrollment process. Come join us - it's easy when you have the map.

Presenters: Robin Foote - Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Tami Grant - Employment Services of Weld County

YOUTH COUNCILS

Find out more about state youth initiatives and the Youth Transition Grant.

Facilitator: Dani Crane - Tri-County Workforce Center

YOUTH MARKETING

It's been measured: the average news story gets six times as much attention as the average advertisement. As important as advertising is, nothing beats telling real stories about real people. And grabbing some attention in this age of media saturation isn't as difficult as you might think: reporters are very receptive to stories about teens and the programs that help them. This workshop explores how youth providers at Workforce Centers are working with print and broadcast media to generate good buzz about youth services and get their messages across. Share your successes and learn from others.

Presenters: Heidi Bimmerle - Co-Director of Rural Resort, Upper Arkansas, and Northwest Regions
Shirley Donachy - Trinidad Workforce Center
Bill Thoennes - Colorado Department of Labor & Employment

YOUTH OFFENDERS

Hear Dr. Rob Wolfsohn, Psy.D, speak about the youth offender population, their barriers to employment, and strategies for success. Jenny McGinty, from the Department of Labor and Employment, will describe tools and incentives for employers, such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Federal Bonding Program.

TRAIL 5 4:00PM-4:50PM

Big Thinkers
Grant Writing
Seeing the Forest Through the Trees
Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation –
What's in it for Youth?
Send Out The Search Party

Lark Room
Denver Room
Bighorn Room
Bristlecone Room

Centennial Room

5:30PM-6:30PM

NETWORKING SESSION

BRISTLECONE ROOM

WEDNESDAY MAY 10TH

7:30AM-8:30AM

BREAKFAST

SPRUCE ROOM

8:45AM-9:35AM

OPENING SESSION

SPRUCE ROOM

The National Perspective on Youth in Workforce Development
Promising Practice Award : Gee Whiz Health Camp (Employment Services of Weld County)

TRAIL 6 9:55AM-10:45AM

Finance 101
Common Measures
Mining For Gold
Youth Councils
Youth Offenders

Bighorn Room
Bristlecone Room
Centennial Room
Denver Room
Lark Room

TRAIL 7 11:00AM-11:50AM

Finance 101
Youth Operators Roundtable
Preparing For Tomorrow.....Today!
Case Management for WIA
Youth Offenders

Bighorn Room
Bristlecone Room
Centennial Room
Denver Room
Lark Room

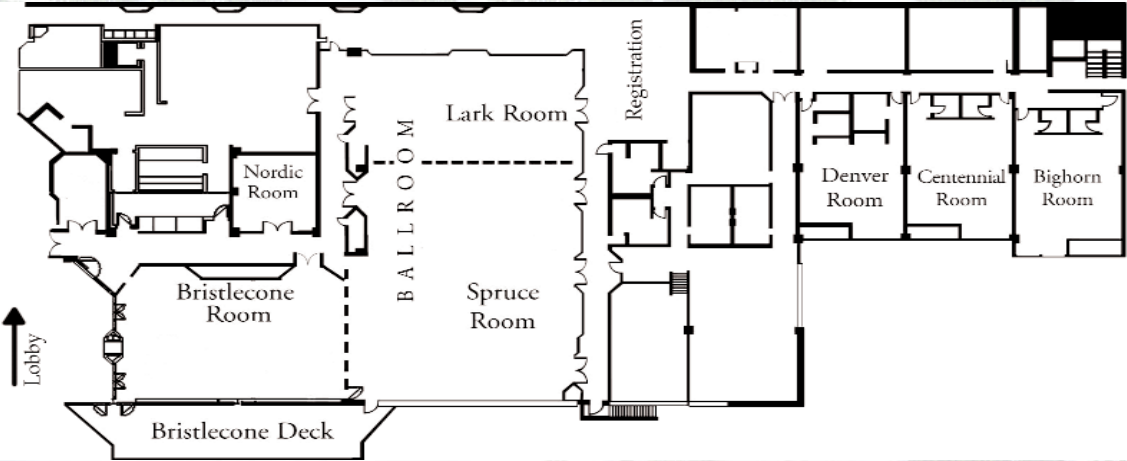
12:00PM-1:30PM

CLOSING & BARBECUE

SPRUCE ROOM

Mark Pingrey – Chair, Colorado Workforce Development Council
Door Prizes

Resources are available in the Nordic Room



Workshop Descriptions

BIG THINKERS

Listen to two creative, Big Thinking approaches to help expose youth to opportunities to pursue economic independence as we hear from the Micro Business Development Corporation and the Construction Career Days project.

Presenters: Terry Kish - Associated General Contractors
Lee Blum - Associated General Contractors
Cathy Rock - Red Rocks Community College
Kersten Hostetter - Micro Business Corporation

CASE MANAGEMENT 101

Effective case management starts with building a solid rapport with your youth, completing an initial assessment, and setting achievable goals together. How and why goals are set for success. Keeping youth involved in their educational and employment plan is imperative. Tips will be given for case managers to keep their youth engaged. Providing various incentives for goals achieved allows the case manager the opportunity to keep open communication with their young adults. Receive useful information regarding incentives and when and how to use them.

Presenters: Carol Aguiniga - Adams County Workforce & Business Center
Rita McGirr - Adams County Workforce & Business Center
Stephanie Lechuga - Adams County Workforce & Business Center

CHILD LABOR LAWS

Which law, state or federal, matters for your situation? Do you know? More importantly, can you be sure that the employer you are working with can trust your explanation of these critical regulations? Attend this workshop to gain the knowledge that will make the difference.

Presenter: Piera Bocciarelli - Division of Labor

COLORADO DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION – WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOUTH?

Join this session to learn everything you ever wanted to know about vocational rehabilitation services and the education/rehabilitation partnership called SWAP (School to Work Alliance Program). During this informative and interactive session, participants will hear about the DVR eligibility process and services that are available to youth. Additionally, information about Colorado’s 44 SWAP programs will be shared. Bring your questions, because an opportunity to have them asked and answered is built into the session.

Presenter: Sue Schierkolk - Colorado DVR Youth Programs Manager

COLORADO’S RURAL YOUTH AT WORK

Looking for new opportunities to engage WIA rural youth in meaningful work and volunteer leadership opportunities? Our panel will share information on various programs that specifically reach out to rural youth. Join us for ideas and referral opportunities.

Facilitator: Jennifer Freeman - Colorado Youth Corps Association

Panelists: Helena Shea - Colorado Range Riders Youth Corps
Ashley Pryor – Los Valles Youth Corps

COMMON MEASURES

We’ve heard that “common measures” is a phrase that can turn our smiles upside down. It sounds like all job training and employment programs will use common performance measures in judging client success. What will the impact be within our Youth programs? Get tips from State MIS and local MIS representatives on how to adapt your program to meet these new goals.

Presenters: Terence Hughes - Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Mickey O’Brien - Rural Consortium

DROPOUT RECOVERY FOR OLDER YOUTH

Come learn about how WorkKeys, a comprehensive employability skills assessment tool from ACT, can benefit your job seekers, and see how the WorkKeys assessment was incorporated in the creation of an alternative high school in Lake County, Colorado.

Presenters: Amy Peters - Rural Resort (Leadville office)
Heidi Bimmerle - Co-Director of Rural Resort, Upper Arkansas, and Northwest Regions

FINANCE 101 (HOW DO WE HELP STUDENTS HELP THEMSELVES?)

Brief overview of the financial aid process and how to obtain financial aid and WIA funding simultaneously.

Presenter: Kevin K. Simpson - Director, Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs at T.H. Pickens Technical Center

GOVERNOR’S SUMMER JOB HUNT 101

A workshop for the staffer who has recently been assigned the awesome responsibility of running the Governor’s Summer Job Hunt in your region. Learn the keys to running a successful youth job fair season.

Presenters: Julie Berge - Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Lorie Mitchell - Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

GRANT WRITING

Getting start-up money for your youth program can mean the difference between success and failure. The State Youth Council has discretionary dollars available to fund innovative and successful youth programs for the coming year. Attend this workshop to see what will be expected from a successful grant proposal.

Presenters: Nina Holland - Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Steve Wright - Colorado Office of Workforce Development

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

From the economists in the Department of Labor and Employment’s Labor Market Information Office, the science of uncovering the big picture is an ongoing task. For them, the “dots” are raw data obtained from surveys of employers across the state. Through these surveys and the analysis that follows, LMI produces a series of reports on the industrial and occupational structure of Colorado’s labor market, including occupational supply and demand, unemployment rates and occupational trends and projections.

Presenter: Greg McBoat - Labor Market Information

LEARN & EARN A TRADE

Here are options for those young people that are not college bound. Apprenticeships are a combination of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. The result of this session will enable you to direct a young person to the skilled trades or Job Corps.

Presenters: Caren Swales - Collbran Job Corps
Larry Lawrence - Director, Colorado Sheet Metal Workers/Joint Apprenticeships and Training Institute

MINING FOR GOLD – UNCOVERING THE RICHES OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Discover the rewards/outcomes that can be realized by working with youth with challenging life circumstances such as homelessness, foster care, parenting, and the like. Lots of “mining” stories to be told!

Panel: Tami Agne-Moehle - Larimer County Workforce Center
Christi Stokel - Larimer County Workforce Center
Chris Jobin - Larimer County Workforce Center

MY SON/DAUGHTER NEEDS SOMETHING TO DO THIS SUMMER!

How often do you receive requests for employment opportunities for early adolescents who are too young to be employed but old enough to make a valuable contribution to an organization? If you find yourself wondering where you can refer an eager youngster or a frustrated parent, join us for a great panel on young adult volunteer opportunities that will keep everyone happy and busy this summer!

Facilitator: Ann Baker Easley - Colorado Youth Corps Association
Panelists: Vicki Leigh - Colorado State Parks
Kathi Conner - Metro Volunteers, Inc.
Holli Porterfield - Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

THE MYSTERY OF RESOURCE MAPPING

Resource mapping is a planning tool that is used to conduct a community resource scan, analyze assets and challenges, and determine opportunities to make changes. Join this session to learn more about the resource mapping process and the tools available in Colorado to map resources within your community. Hear from local workforce regions that have used resource mapping to identify strengths and weaknesses in serving youth with disabilities, and strategies and opportunities to address these. Learn about the successes and outcomes of these communities as a result of resource mapping and resulting strategic plan development activities.

Presenter: Samantha O Neill-Dunbar - Workforce Development Coordinator, Colorado Community College System